

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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R 310755Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 4154

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS

REF: (A) JAKARTA 4033, (B) JAKARTA 4034

1. SUMMARY. IN THIS AND SUBSEQUENT CABLE, THE EMBASSY WILL FORWARD BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THE TEN "NEW FACES" IN THE JUST SWORN-IN INDONESIAN CABINET AND OF LT. GEN. DARJATMO, NEW CHIEF OF STAFF OF KOPKAMTIB. THIS CABLE WILL COVER HABIBIE, MOEDJONO, SOEDARSONO, SOEHOED AND PURNOMOSIDI. SPELLINGS (FOR EXAMPLE, "U" VS. "OE") AND TITLES IN THIS AND ITS COMPANION CABLE SHOULD, IF DIFFERENT, BE USED IN PREFERENCE TO THOSE IN PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON THE NEW CABINET, REFTEL A. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF STATE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY: DR. IR. B. J. HABIBIE. THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE NEW CABINET AT 41, HABIBIE IS A GERMAN-TRAINED AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER WHO HAS SERVED AS SUHARTO'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS. HE IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND ENERGETIC AND IS EXPECTED TO TRY TO PLAY A CATALYTIC ROLE IN HIS NEW JOB. THE ONLY QUESTION MARKS ARE
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WHETHER HE WILL BE SPREAD TOO THIN (HE RETAINS OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS), WHETHER HIS AGGRESSIVENESS MIGHT SOMETIMES ALIENATE OTHER INDONESIANS AND THE PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT, BECAUSE OF HIS GERMAN CONNECTION, HE BLATANTLY FAVORS GERMAN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN INDONESIA, SOMETIMES TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES' FIRMS.

3. HABIBIE, A NATIVE OF SOUTH SULAWESI, STUDIED AND WORKED IN WEST GERMANY FOR MUCH OF THE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT STUDENTS AT THE PRESTIGIOUS AACHEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, WHICH AWARDED HIM A PH. D. IN 1965. AFTER GRADUATION HABIBIE WORKED FOR A NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN AERONAUTICAL FIRMS, EVENTUALLY BECOMING VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE MESSERSCHMITT-BOLKOW-BLOHM (MBB) AIRCRAFT COMPANY. HE WILL RETAIN A FORMAL ADVISORY STATUS WITH THAT FIRM WHILE IN THE CABINET. HABIBIE RETURNED TO INDONESIA IN 1973 TO HEAD PERTAMINA'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND AVIATION DIVISION. IN 1976 HE ASSUMED THE PRESIDENT-DIRECTORSHIP OF THE INDONESIAN AIRCRAFT FIRM NURTANIO AND WAS APPOINTED AS SUHARTO'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND AERONAUTICS. AS PART OF HIS NEW JOB, HABIBIE WILL OVERSEE THE FORMULATION OF A NEW AGENCY TO COORDINATE S&T MATTERS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW, COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC R&D CENTER WEST OF JAKARTA.

4. MINISTER OF JUSTICE: MAJ. GEN. MOEDJONO SH. MOEDJONO'S APPOINTMENT WAS AMONG THE LEAST EXPECTED OF ANY IN THE NEW CABINET. EDUCATED IN THE MILITARY LEGAL SYSTEM, HE HAS NO KNOWN CIVILIAN LEGAL EXPERIENCE. HE RECEIVED HIGH MARKS FROM THE PRESS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES (AND PRESUMABLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL) CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR HIS ORGANIZATIONAL WORK AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DPR AND JUST-COMPLETED MPR, HOWEVER, AND WILL PROBABLY DO A GOOD JOB MANAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. A STAUNCH MEMBER OF THE GOLKAR ESTABLISHMENT, HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE AN ACTIVE FORCE FOR MUCH-NEEDED REFORM IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

5. MOEDJONO, AGED 50, IS A NATIVE OF EAST JAVA AND AN ARMY OFFICER OF MORE THAN 30 YEARS SERVICE, MUCH OF HIS MILITARY CAREER, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN SPENT WORKING IN THE ARMED FORCES LEGAL SYSTEM (THROUGH WHICH HE OBTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE, THE SARJANA HUKUM, SH) OR IN CIVILIAN JOBS (THE SO-CALLED DWI FUNGSI POSITIONS). IN SUMATRA AT THE TIME OF THE 1965 COMMUNIST COUP, HE ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES AND WAS ACTIVE IN WINNING CONTROL OVER THE LABOR MOVEMENT FOR THE PRO-SUHARTO GROUP. HE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PARTY GOLKAR AND HAS BEEN A GOLKAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1971. IN 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARLIAMENT. HE IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF FIVE CHILDREN, ALL OF THEM NOW GROWN AND MARRIED.

6. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: PROF. IR. SOEDARSONO
HADISAPOETRO. SOEDARSONO IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AGRICULTURALIST AND LAND-USE SPECIALIST WHO COMES TO THE CABINET DIRECT FROM THE CAMPUS OF JOGJAKARTA'S GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY (GM). SOEDARSONO IS THE ORIGINATOR OF THE BUUD/KUD COOPERATIVE SYSTEM, WHICH HE APPARENTLY MANAGED SUCCESSFULLY IN THE JOGJAKARTA AREA BUT WHICH HAS BEEN LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL WHEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON A NATIONAL SCALE. A HARD-WORKER, SOEDARSONO'S POLITICAL ACUMEN AND ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY REMAIN TO BE TESTED IN THE SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE POST.

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7. SOEDARSONO, A 56 YEAR OLD CENTRAL JAVANESE, WAS EDUCATED IN DUTCH SECONDARY SCHOOLS, THE BOGOR AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (IPB) AND AT GM, FROM WHICH HE RECEIVED A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE IN 1954. HE JOINED THE GM FACULTY THAT YEAR AND HAS WORKED THERE EVER SINCE. WHILE TEACHING FULL-TIME AT GM, SOEDARSONO HAS BEEN AN ADVISER TO NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO THE BUDD/KUD CONCEPT, HIS NAME IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S BIMAS SEED AND FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. SOEDARSONO IS THE DIRECTOR OF GM'S AMBITIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE. BY REPUTATION A QUIET AND VERY DEDICATED MAN, SOEDARSONO IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF (DEPENDING ON WHICH NEWSPAPER YOU BELIEVE) SIX OR SEVEN CHILDREN.

8. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY: IR. ABDOEL RAOEF SOEHOED.
SOEHOED HAS BEEN TERMED BY THE RESPECTED DAILY KOMPAS "THE PERFECT CHOICE" TO HEAD THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY. WE HAVE

LITTLE QUARREL WITH THAT DESCRIPTION. WITH WIDE-EXPERIENCE IN BOTH PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT, SOEHOED WAS EFFECTIVE IN HIS VERY DIFFICULT PREVIOUS JOB OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT COORDINATING BOARD (BKPM) WHILE PRIVATELY BEING A RATHER OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME BKPM PROCEDURES. HE IS REALISTIC ABOUT INDONESIA'S NEED FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THE KINDS OF LAWS REQUIRED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN CAPITAL, AND HE HAS BEEN ACCESSIBLE TO AND COOPERATIVE WITH US. SOEHOED IS KNOWN TO HAVE CLOSE CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO.

9. SOEHOED WAS BORN IN JAKARTA IN 1920. BY TRADE A CIVIL ENGINEER, HE SPENT MOST OF HIS EARLY YEARS TEACHING IN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND WORKING FOR PRIVATE ELECTRONICS FIRMS. HE SERVED IN THE AIR FORCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN THE EARLY 1950'S AS A TECHNICAL ADVISER, RESIGNED IN 1956 AND RETURNED TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING HIS OWN CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM. IN 1966 HE GOT HIS FIRST GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN POST, AS ADVISER IN WHAT WAS THEN CALLED THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT. HE THEN MOVED TO AN AD HOC BODY CALLED THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND IN 1973 WAS APPOINTED TO THE VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP OF BKPM. IN THAT JOB, AND ON VARIOUS ASEAN-RELATED ASSIGNMENTS, HE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY AND HAS MANY BUSINESS CONTACTS IN INDONESIA AND ABROAD. HE IS A DIRECTOR OF A NUMBER OF PRIVATE FIRMS, INCLUDING FREEPORT INDONESIA. HE IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF THREE SONS AND FOUR DAUGHTERS.

10. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS: DR. IR. PURNOMOSIDI HADJISAROSO. PURNOMOSIDI IS A PROTEGE OF HIS HIGHLY-REGARDED (AND NOW SERIOUSLY ILL) PREDECESSOR AT PUBLIC WORKS, SUTAMI. LIKE HABIBIE A PRODUCT OF WEST GERMAN GRADUATE-LEVEL EDUCATION (IN METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING), PURNOMOSIDI MOVES INTO THE TOP SPOT IN PUBLIC WORKS FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL FOUR YEAR TENURE AS THAT DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HIGHWAYS. HE IS LIKELY TO CARRY ON SUTAMI'S EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT AT PUBLIC WORKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUGH WILL PROBABLY HAVE A LOWER-PROFILE THAN HIS POPULAR PREDECESSOR. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL ALSO BE SOMEWHAT NARROWER, WITH HIS DEPARTMENT'S LOSS OF THE ELECTRIC POWER PORTFOLIO.

11. ONE OF THE NEW CABINET'S YOUNGEST MEMBERS, PURNOMOSIDI WAS BORN IN 1934 IN CENTRAL JAVA TO A LARGE AND RATHER POOR FAMILY, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE BECOME HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSPEOPLE. HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB) AND LATER RECEIVED A MASTER'S DEGREE AND A PH. D. FROM A WEST GERMAN UNIVERSITY. IN THE EARLY 1960'S, AFTER BRIEF TENURE IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, HE JOINED, SUCCESSIVELY, WHAT WERE THEN THE MINISTRY OF BASIC INDUSTRIES AND THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AFFAIRS. IN THE LATTER POST, HE DIRECTED CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPRESSIVE BUILDING NOW USED BY THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT. HE THEN MOVED TO PUBLIC WORKS, WHERE HE HAS SERVED SINCE. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

12. FOOTNOTE: THE ABBREVIATION "IR." STANDS FOR INSINYUR (ENGINEER) AND "DRS." FOR DOKTORANDUS (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A MASTER'S DEGREE). BOTH ARE COMMONLY USED IN INDONESIA. "SH" HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED. THE OTHER ABBREVIATIONS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE IN ENGLISH. MASTERS

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